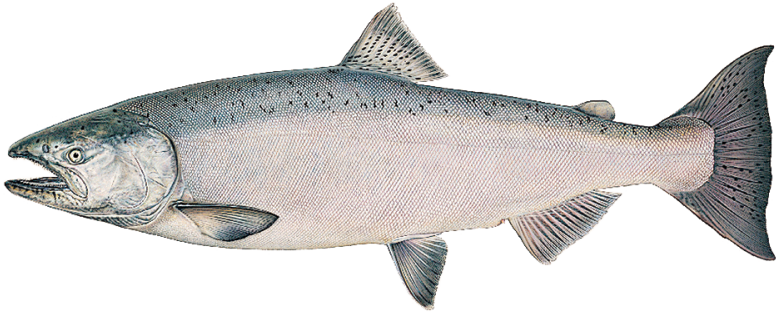


Chinook salmon

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Similar Species: Rainbow trout (in Lake Oahe)

Identification: Light body with dark spots, deeply forked tail, black mouth. (See rainbow trout for further details on distinguishing chinook salmon from rainbow trout.)

Chinook salmon are native to the Pacific Ocean, but have been introduced into Lake Oahe. They do not naturally reproduce in the reservoir, and their population is maintained by stocking. Salmon are cold-water fishes, and inhabit the cold bottom waters of Lake Oahe during midsummer. Rainbow smelt are an important food item of chinook salmon in Lake Oahe. Chinook salmon spawn in the fall. Although they can exceed 100 pounds in the Pacific Ocean, the largest fish in Lake Oahe are approximately 20 pounds.

